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Mr. Disbrow has accomplished with signal success. Of course it is possible to pick a few flaws in the work. Some matters might have been elaborated a little more fully, and the value of the book as a practical guide thereby increased. So, too, in a few instances, the author's carefully sought-after brevity tends to mislead the reader. Considering the volume as a whole, however, and in view of the difficulties besetting the task, the writer is certainly to be commended. In the short space of one hundred and fifty pages he has presented an excellent summary of the New York Code; a summary which not only is entirely adequate for the needs of the law student, but also conveys a clear idea of the main principles of this very complex subject. E. S. T.

COMMENTARIES ON THE LAW OF NEGLIGENCE. By Seymour D. Thompson. Vols. I. and II. Indianapolis: The Bowen-Merrill Co. 1901. pp. lvii, 1254; li, 1134. 8vo.

In this work the author intends to treat of negligence in all its relations. Two volumes are now at hand, the first of which contains statements of general principles, together with their common applications, while the second treats of the negligence of Railway and Telegraph Companies. Four volumes are to follow.

In the law of torts it is especially true that many rules of substantive law have been based on forms of procedure now practically obsolete. Moreover, the volume of decided cases has become so enormous, and their results have been so variant, and so largely based on their individual facts, that their mere enumeration affords little assistance towards a uniform statement of principles. In a work of such magnitude as the present it was to be hoped that the author would undertake the task, which most text writers leave untouched, of suggesting some broad, rational principles which would cover ground now broken into separate divisions by petty, irrational distinctions. Such a work might do much to free the courts from subserviency to the results of obsolete forms of procedure, and to guide them to a simpler and more uniform statement of the law. This hope, however, is disappointed by these volumes. The author formulates no guiding principle to run through the entire book, and even in his treatment of the law of specific subjects, except for here and there a keen suggestion, generally contents himself with enumerating conflicting views, as for example where he treats of recovery for mental anguish caused by the negligence of telegraph companies. In the development or simplification of the law, then, the book can have little effect.

On the other hand, the law, as commonly understood, is clearly stated, and many subjects newly brought before the courts are treated. The compilation of authorities is exhaustive, as the author expects to cite at least 35,000 cases before the work is consummated. A large number of cases are concisely abstracted. As the book, therefore, contains such material as is usually embodied both in the ordinary text-book and in the digest, revised in accord with the latest decisions, it should temporarily, at least, be found highly useful for reference.

THE HISTORY OF THE LEGISLATION CONCERNING REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY IN ENGLAND DURING THE REIGN OF QUEEN VICTORIA. By J. E. R. de Villiers. Being the Yorke Prize Essay for the year 1900. London: C. J. Clay and Sons. 1901. pp. xix, 236. 12mo.

To produce a work of any material value to other than the casual reader upon such a subject as that of the present essay requires an immense amount of careful and well-directed labor. And at the same time to confine the result within the necessarily narrow limits of a prize essay renders the task infinitely more difficult. Nevertheless it is hardly too much to say that Mr. de Villiers has produced a valuable as well as an exceedingly readable book. The essay, however, is not of importance as presenting any new views or even any previously inac-